

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LAND SURVEYORS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REQUIREMENTS:

The applicant must satisfy the requirements in one of the following categories in order to be eligible for licensure as a professional land surveyor in the state of Tennessee:

CATEGORY A

1. Obtain a four-year baccalaureate degree in land surveying.
2. Pass an eight-hour written exam, Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS) selected by the Board.
3. Submit evidence that you have obtained two years progressive experience on surveying projects working under the supervision of a licensed surveyor.
4. Pass both written exams: the six hour Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) and the two hour Tennessee State Jurisdictional exam (TS), selected by the Board.

CATEGORY B

1. Obtain a baccalaureate degree in a science, engineering, or technology curriculum of four or more years related to the practice of land surveying, approved by the Board.
2. Submit transcripts showing 24 additional semester hours of board approved course work in the surveying sciences.
3. Pass an eight-hour written exam, Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS), selected by the Board.
4. Submit evidence that you have obtained two years of progressive experience on surveying projects working under the supervision of a licensed surveyor.
5. Pass both written exams: the six hour Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) and the two hour Tennessee State Jurisdictional exam (TS), selected by the Board.

CATEGORY C

1. Obtain a baccalaureate degree from a non-surveying related curriculum of four or more years, approved by the Board.
2. Submit transcripts showing 36 additional semester hours of board approved course work in the surveying sciences.
3. Pass an eight-hour written exam, Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS), selected by the Board.
4. Submit evidence that you have obtained two years of progressive experience on surveying projects working under the supervision of a licensed surveyor.
5. Pass both written exams: the six hour Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) and the two hour Tennessee State Jurisdictional exam (TS), selected by the Board.

NON-BACCALAUREATE OPTION

Any person submitting evidence satisfactory to the Board that they have worked as a licensed land surveyor, or under a licensed land surveyor for at least 10 years, will be exempt from the educational requirements of Category A, B and C, but will be required to include a copy of their high school diploma or GED with their application.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, [EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY](#) IS THE ONLY SCHOOL IN TENNESSEE THAT OFFERS THE FOUR YEAR SURVEYING DEGREE PROGRAM.

Out-of-state colleges offering a four year degree in surveying are acceptable.

APPLICATIONS:

The applicant must submit a NON-REFUNDABLE application fee of \$200.00 with their application. If the application is approved, the Board determines whether the applicant will be required to take a 2-hour, 6-hour, 8-hour or a 16-hour written examination. EVERY APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO TAKE A WRITTEN EXAMINATION.

Applications are reviewed in March for the April exam and in September for the October exam.

The application deadline for the April exam is February 1.

The re-exam application deadline for the April exam is February 21.

The application deadline for the October exam is August 1.

The re-exam application deadline for the October exam is August 21.

Applicants who fail the examination two or more times must complete a [re-take request form](#). The request will have to be approved by the Board before the applicant will be allowed to take the exam again {TCA 62-18-111(b)}.

IF, AFTER TWO YEARS FROM THE ORIGINAL DATE OF THE APPLICATION, THE INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT PASSED THE REQUIRED TESTING, HE/SHE MUST WAIT ONE YEAR BEFORE SUBMITTING ANOTHER NEW AND COMPLETE APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE.

PROCEDURE TO MEET WITH THE BOARD:

Any applicant wishing to meet with the Board must send a letter requesting the meeting and an appointment will be scheduled for you. Meeting with the applicants are usually held at the April and October meeting, which are held at the same time the exams are given. Applicants who failed the exam and request to meet with the Board cannot meet with the Board and re-take the exam at the same time, but must wait until the next exam is offered.

APPLICANTS APPROVED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION:

The exam fees are as follows:

Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS) - \$125.00
Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) - \$150.00
Tennessee Specifics of Land Surveying (TS) - \$150.00

Applicants will be notified of their approval and the required examination fee. The applicant is notified in a timely manner regarding the date, time and location of the exam, which portions of the exam are open book, which portions are closed book and the materials allowed at the exam site. Any questions regarding the use of calculators must be directed to the proctor at the exam site or you may contact Peter Messer @ 800-447-4091 ext. 402.

Examination dates are released by [NCEES](#) and Tennessee adheres to these dates.

EXAMINATIONS:

Examinations are given in April and October.

We give a one day national exam {6-hour NCEES (PS)} and a Tennessee specific exam {2-hour (TS)} on Friday. The Tennessee specific exam (TS) consists of legal and specific terms related to general surveying in the state of Tennessee.

On Saturday, we give a one day national exam {8-hour NCEES (FS)}.

If the applicant fails any portion of the NCEES FS, NCEES PS, or the Tennessee specific (TS), he/she must retake that portion of the exam.

STUDY MATERIAL FOR THE EXAMINATIONS:

NCEES: For specific information about the examination and for a study guide visit the [NCEES](#) website.

SUGGESTED REFERENCE LIST FOR TENNESSEE SPECIFIC LAND SURVEYING (TS) EXAMINATION

Tennessee Land Surveyors Law and Regulations, 2000 Edition – A slate blue booklet you should have received in your application packet. Issued by the Tennessee Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors, phone: 615-741-3611.

Tennessee Boundary Law published by the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors (TAPS), revised 1998. Available from the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors, phone: 615-860-9311.

Sections of the Tennessee code, state agency regulations and Tennessee case law related to the practice of surveying, boundaries and subdivisions. This information may be researched at any local law library that catalogues Tennessee law and the [state's website](#).

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) regulations relative to wetlands, streams, septic systems, and erosion and sediment control. Contact TDEC Environmental Assistance Center, phone: 888-891-8332.

TDOT Survey Manual and TDOT TGRN Manual by Tennessee Department of Transportation. Available from TDOT Map Sales Office, phone: 615-741-2195. It may, also be found on [TDOT's website](#).

Elevation Certificate and Instructions, latest edition, by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Flood Insurance Program. Contact [FEMA](#) (pdf) for this information.

Any applied drainage manual or text covering the hydrology of storm water runoff and the hydraulics of culverts and open channel flow (some state DOT's may have in-house drainage manuals available for sale.)

ACSM Sample Contracts Manual. A reference manual that describes the essentials of a contract for surveying services. Available from [American Congress on Surveying and Mapping](#), phone: 301-493-0200.

Advanced Land Descriptions by Paul Cuomo and Roy Minnick. A book that deals with the essentials of writing various types of proper land descriptions. Available from [pcpressinc.com](#).

The following may be useful for the TS examination as well as the NCEES FS and PS examinations and may be ordered from [That Technical Bookstore](#) or [ACSM](#) or most book stores:

Definitions of Surveying and Associated Terms, by American Congress on Mapping and Surveying

Black's Law Dictionary (hard cover and soft cover versions available)

Boundary Control and Legal Principles by Brown, Robillard and Wilson.

Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location by Brown, Robillard and Wilson.

A good plane surveying text such as *Elementary Surveying* by Wolf and Ghilani or *Surveying* by Moffitt and Bossler.

Route Surveying and Design by Gibson and Meyers (or similar book on route geometry).

Surveying with Construction Applications, by Kavanagh (or similar book on construction surveying).

Land Survey Manual, 3rd Edition by R.B. Buckner

State Plane Coordinate System of 1983 by James E. Stern, published by NGS, GPO [[click here](#) (pdf)]